R4nger5 radio

Episode 66



Thanks to **Agent Pugsley** for the link to this image

Recording time : TBA

News

Is your newest face book friend a debt collector? Thanks Macavity!

With millions of Americans struggling in the current economic crisis, it should come as no surprise that a growing number of people are falling behind paying their bills. This is no cause for celebration -- unless of course, you happen to make your living as a debt collector, a debt-settlement company or other notoriously sleazy outfits engineered to profit off people's financial misery.It’s bad enough that while newspapers and car companies die off, the debt business is booming. But recent months have brought a number of reports and lawsuits that exposed some of the latest -- and slimiest -- ways the "financial services" industry is using to cash in on already-struggling Americans.

When Michigan resident Paula Newland fell behind in her car payments, she found herself battling some typical -- and not so typical -- tactics used by debt collectors. In addition to repeated, harassing phone calls from three companies -- including 15 calls on one Saturday and claims that phone calls were "concerning a 'family emergency' " -- Newland was told that if she did not pay up, her car would be reported stolen, and she would be arrested. The company also threatened to deploy what they called a "shame automobile" and "camp out all weekend" in front of her house.

And then came a novel approach: As if all this weren’t enough, the fact there were overdue payments for her 2005 Chevy Impala were broadcast on her MySpace account. Outraged and humiliated, Newland filed a civil suit earlier this year claiming "damage to her business and community reputation, extreme mental distress, aggravation, humiliation and embarrassment."m Newland is hardly alone. Debt collectors are increasingly using social-networking technology to go after people in debt. Ever get "friended" on Facebook by a cute stranger? Think twice before you add them. Some debt collectors have been caught posing as random "friends" on Facebook. According to a post on *Consumerist* last month, "Debt collectors are using cute chicks as bait on Facebook to track down and keep track of debtors." It told the story of one employee of a debt-collection agency, who after "friending" some 658 people, declared (rather bizarrely):

haha you guys i tricked you all my name is actually Emily and i work for cbv collections as a skip tracer i bet you guys got calls from them saying you owe money thats all my doing :) you want to call and bitch? i dare you to call me 604-[redacted]!!! I wait to hear from you :)"

Writing about the *Consumerist* story, blogger Angela Connor who writes at *Social MediaToday*, noted a trend in the Google searches that lead people to her site. "Here are a few I've seen in the last two weeks," she wrote:

1. "facebook debt collectors" (there are many instances of this one!)
2. "debt collectors are going to start infiltrating social media"
3. "Do bill collector's use LinkedIn?"

"This clearly is a topic on the minds of many," Connor wrote. "I have no idea who is conducting these searches (bill collectors or those trying to avoid them), but I know we will see this more often."Indeed, another recent lawsuit tells the story of James Ricobene, who sued a Chicago company called Universal Tracing in April after "a senior investigator for the

collection agency posted a message on [Ricobene's] daughter's MySpace page asking her to 'contact our office immediately so we can discuss the peaceful recovery' of his 2007 Mercedes GL450.

Link (to longer article)
http://www.alternet.org/story/140547/is_your_newest_facebook_friend_a_sleazeball_debt_collector/

Iran is teetering on the brink of a revolution today, thanks to the web in general and Twitter in particular. At least that's the narrative shooting around the Web 2.0-sphere right now.

During the recent election campaign, the wisdom goes, opponents of the hardline Ahmadinejad regime used Twitter, Facebook and blogs to push their message and build up a head of steam that would blow the lid of years of repression. Ahmadinejad would be ousted, democratically, ushering in a new moderate, less insular government led by Hossein Mousavi.

Things didn't quite go as planned. The Ahmadinejad camp officially took 63 per cent of the vote - in a count considered suspiciously quick. Their first act was to clamp down on communications in the country, including the internet and mobile phones, as well as radio and TV broadcasts. The likes of the BBC were left relying on satellite phones to report out of the country. But Twitter endured, enabling ordinary Iranians to bypass government censorship.

Reform-minded Iranians, incensed at what they see as the government's stealing of the election, took to Twitter et al to claim that Mousavi had in fact beaten Ahamdinejad by over three to one, and to encourage their compatriots to take to the streets. People certainly took to the streets, where there were vicious clashes on Sunday.

A massive demonstration yesterday ended in bloodshed, with pro-government militia opening fire and killing at least seven protesters. Pictures and video of the demo and its aftermath quickly appeared on photo sharing sites and YouTube. Shortly after, the religious authorities - the ultimate power in the country - announced a partial recount of the vote.

On the other side of the world, Twitter, conscious of its new role as an enabler of revolution, declared it would postpone scheduled maintenance, so that Iranians could continue to avail themselves of the service.

Which all makes for a ringing endorsement of Web 2.0, apparently. So is it churlish to point out that it's only 30 years since a previous Iranian regime was toppled by an upstart cleric, whose views were propagated underground, using nothing so techie as C90 cassette tapes?

Or to remember that for better or worse, there were revolutions in China and Russia in the last Century, where dissent was spread using nothing more than ink and paper, or just the human voice. Or that in the 1990s, the Rwanda genocide was fuelled by radio broadcasts.So, even as the non-Iranian Twitterati continue to pat themselves on the back, it's worth remembering that a medium is just that, and not a message.

Link: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/06/16/iran_twitter/

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is risking soured milk and sickly cattle after deciding a coven of witches could not hold its annual shindig on Catholic premises.

The Crystal Cauldron, led by High Priestess Sandra Davis, booked the Our Lady's Social Club in Shaw Heath, Stockport for the Witches' Ball, scheduled for October. According to the *Telegraph*, when she rang to sort the £175 payment, she was told to find an alternative venue for the pagan knees-up

A furious Davis, who'd already printed tickets for the event, hubbled and bubbled: "I'm appalled. My congregation is shocked that in this day and age there can be such religious discrimination. We're normal people who follow an earth-based religion and want to enjoy ourselves.

"We thought we were bridging the gap with other religions but misconceptions still exist, like we sacrifice animals. Does the church check everyone's beliefs before allowing them in the club?"

She added: "Now we need another venue for at least 100 people with a stage for entertainment. At this point that's going to be very difficult."

That's too bad, according to the Diocese of Shrewsbury's Reverend John Joyce, who confirmed: "Parish centres under our auspices let their premises on the understanding users and their organisations are compatible with the ethos and teachings of the Catholic church. In this instance, we aren't satisfied such requirements are met."

We'd like to suggest the Crystal Cauldron forms an unholy alliance with the Somerset Yum Yum Yoga group which was in 2007 similarly barred from a Baptist church hall for "promoting other spiritualities" with its hideous "unchristian" practices.

This combined heathen force would doubtless be able - through striking potent *asanas* in front of a steaming cauldron of witches' brew - be able to conjure a spirit of peace and love between the UK's myriad faiths

Link: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/06/17/witches_ousted/

Re-engineered battery material = rapid recharging of devices Thanks Geddonia!

MIT engineers have created a kind of beltway that allows for the rapid transit of electrical energy through a well-known battery material, an advance that could usher in smaller, lighter batteries -- for cell phones and other devices -- that could recharge in seconds rather than hours.The work could also allow for the quick recharging of batteries in electric cars, although that particular application would be limited by the amount of power available to a homeowner through the electric grid.

The work, led by Gerbrand Ceder, the Richard P. Simmons Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, is reported in the March 12 issue of Nature. Because the material involved is not new -- the researchers have simply changed the way they make it -- Ceder believes the work could make it into the marketplace within two to three years.State-of-the-art lithium rechargeable batteries have very high energy densities -- they are good at storing large amounts of charge. The tradeoff is that they have relatively slow power rates -- they are sluggish at gaining and discharging that energy. Consider current batteries for electric cars. "They have a lot of energy, so you can drive at 55 mph for a long time, but the power is low. You can't accelerate quickly," Ceder said.

Why the slow power rates? Traditionally, scientists have thought that the lithium ions responsible, along with electrons, for carrying charge across the battery simply move too slowly through the material. About five years ago, however, Ceder and colleagues made a surprising discovery. Computer calculations of a well-known battery material, lithium iron phosphate, predicted that the material's lithium ions should actually be moving extremely quickly."If transport of the lithium ions was so fast, something else had to be the problem," Ceder said. Further calculations showed that lithium ions can indeed move very quickly into the material but only through tunnels accessed from the surface. If a lithium ion at the surface is directly in front of a tunnel entrance, there's no problem: it proceeds efficiently into the tunnel. But if the ion isn't directly in front, it is prevented from reaching the tunnel entrance because it cannot move to access that entrance.

Ceder and Byoungwoo Kang, a graduate student in materials science and engineering, devised a way around the problem by creating a new surface structure that does allow the lithium ions to move quickly around the outside of the material, much like a beltway around a city. When an ion traveling along this beltway reaches a tunnel, it is instantly diverted into it. Kang is a coauthor of the Nature paper.Using their new processing technique, the two went on to make a small battery that could be fully charged or discharged in 10 to 20 seconds (it takes six minutes to fully charge or discharge a cell made from the unprocessed material).

Ceder notes that further tests showed that unlike other battery materials, the new material does not degrade as much when repeatedly charged and recharged. This could lead to smaller, lighter batteries, because less material is needed for the same result."The ability to charge and discharge batteries in a matter of seconds rather than hours may open up new technological applications and induce lifestyle changes," Ceder and Kang conclude in their Nature paper.
This work was supported by the National Science Foundation through the Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers program and the Batteries for Advanced Transportation Program of the U.S. Department of Energy. It has been licensed by two companies.

Link: http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2009/battery-material-0311.html

Lawyers gunning to return the $100m that the RIAA stole **Thanks MAcavity!**

The recording industry has spent (and continues to spend) millions of dollars on its litigation campaign against accused file-swappers, but if two lawyers have their way, the RIAA will have to pay all the money back. Not content simply to defend Jammie Thomas-Rasset in her high-profile retrial next week in Minnesota, lawyer Kiwi Camara is joining forces with Harvard Law professor Charles Nesson to file a class-action lawsuit against the recording industry later this summer.

The goal is nothing less than to force the industry to pay back the alleged "$100+ million" it has collected over the last few years. Perhaps the RIAA had good reason not to send those settlement letters to Harvard for so long.

Ars spoke with Camara on Tuesday as he rode to the airport for the flight to Minneapolis, where he will defend Jammie Thomas-Rasset after only two weeks of preparation. But the time crunch has in no way restricted his vision; Camara says that he is intent on dismantling the entire RIAA litigation campaign by going after its legal underpinnings.Camara's firm doesn't do easy cases, and even in *pro bono* cases, "we want to fix a problem for a lot of people, including our client."

That means doing more than getting Thomas-Rasset off without a guilty verdict, and it's why Camara has already gone after the two fundamental pieces of RIAA evidence in these cases. First up was the evidence from hired investigator MediaSentry, which tracked down IP addresses of file-sharers and provided the only evidence of observed copyright infringement. Camara has argued that MediaSentry was not licensed as a private investigator in Minnesota, that it ran an illegal "pen register," and that its evidence should be barred. Such a move would essentially destroy the RIAA's main evidence of copyright infringement, and it's no surprise that the trade group has pushed back hard.

But Camara goes even further back in the evidence chain. To prove copyright infringement, the RIAA needs evidence of that infringement, of course, but it also needs to prove it owns the copyrights in question. If it can't establish that fact, the case also falls apart. This sounds like a long shot—surely the record labels did something as basic as register their copyrights?—but Camara tells us that it's not so simple.

"They basically committed a technical screw-up," he says of the RIAA. That's because lawyers provided the court with "true and correct" copies of their copyright registrations (perhaps accurate but not "official), but these are not the "certified copies" required under federal rules of evidence. The RIAA seemed taken aback by Camara's pretrial complaint and asked the judge in the case to simply take "judicial notice" of the validity of its forms. But, after a telephone conversation on Monday, the judge refused to do that.

He also rejected the RIAA argument that "hey, these forms were good enough for Thomas' first trial, so they're good enough now." The judge pointed out that "the Court's Order granting a new trial in this matter granted an entirely new trial on all issues. The fact that Defendant did not object to Plaintiffs' evidence of registration in the First Trial does not preclude Defendant from putting Plaintiffs to their burden of proof on this issue in the retrial."

The RIAA admitted that "it will be difficult and expensive to now attempt to obtain certified copies from the US Copyright Office in time for trial." Whoops. Even if the RIAA comes up with the documents, though, Camara still has objections to their contents (or lack thereof). The registrations don't include the actual "specimen," for one thing (in this case the actual sound recording filed with the Copyright Office), so Camara says he has no way to know what was actually filed and whether it truly is identical with what Thomas-Rasset is accused of sharing.

He will also charge that the registrations are simply invalid, since they were all done in the names of the various record labels, not of the artists. But the "work for hire" law under which this was done has been improperly applied in these cases, he says, and the registrations are therefore defective.

Taken together, the two lines of attack on the RIAA's main evidence are an attempt to cripple the recording industry case before it even reaches the question of whether Thomas-Rasset actually "did it." Which is probably just as well, since there is some fairly compelling evidence against her, evidence good enough to secure a guilty verdict the first time around.

But not even this sort of attack on the RIAA's methods goes far enough for Camara. He tells Ars that he and Harvard Law professor Charles Nesson will file a class-action lawsuit against the industry at some point after the conclusion of the Thomas-Rasset case in an effort to make the labels pay back all monies taken in from settlements with file-sharers. Or, in Camara's words, he's going to "get the $100 million that they stole." (The RIAA tells Ars that the $100 million figure is inaccurate, and RIAA general counsel Steven Marks indicated in a recent Ars op-ed that the labels had lost money on the campaign.)

The idea behind the suit is that the RIAA has illegally threatened people, using void copyright registrations, and scared them into paying an average of $3,000 or $4,000 apiece to fend off the threat of federal litigation.If all of these arguments weren't enough, the Nesson/Camara tag team have a couple more eyepoppers to make: P2P file-sharing of copyrighted material is fair use, and huge statutory damage awards against noncommercial users are unconstitutional.

Clearly, "thinking small" doesn't interest either man—Nesson has the nickname "Billion Dollar Charlie" for a reason, and it's not surprising to learn that Camara studied with Nesson at Harvard and calls him "the smartest person that I know." Camara, for his part, is a sharp lawyer who was the youngest person ever to enroll in Harvard Law. As he prepares to fly up to Minnesota today, Camara says, "We're ready for trial." He also says that he plans to win.

Link: http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/news/2009/06/lawyers-plan-class-action-to-reclaim-100m-riaa-stole.ars

Sweden's pirate party has won entry into the European Parliament in Brussels in elections held on Sunday. **Thanks Macavity!**

The Pirate Party gained 7 per cent of the Swedish votes and secured at least one of the seats that Sweden holds in ther parliament.

"Citizens have understood that it's time to pull the fist out of the pocket and that you can make a difference," Rick Falkvinge, leader and founder of the party told the Swedish saily Svenska Dagbladet, after the result of the elections were revealed. "We don't accept to be bugged by the government. People start to understand that the government is not always good"

The Pirate Party is focussed on three main goals, "to fundamentally reform copyright law, get rid of the patent system and ensure citizen's rights to privacy are respected"

The party was founded in 2006, and that year gained only 0.63 percent of the votes in Swedish parliamentary elections. But since then it has attracted members during the debate on several controversial laws that authorize monitoring of electronic communications and that **make it easier to police file sharing** on the Internet.

It is now Sweden's third biggest party by membership. Its ranks swelled when **four men were sentenced to prison** in the high-profile Pirate Bay case in April. People use Web sites like The Pirate Bay to transfer movies and music, a practice that has drawn the ire--and the lawyers--of Hollywood studios and the recording industry

The pirate party is not formally connected with the pirate bay web site, but has expressed its support for it.The party wants all non commercial copying to be free and file sharing to be encouraged. The copyright system, it argues, is out of whack--rather than encouraging the spread of culture, the system now imposes severe restrictions.

The European elections attracted 43.8 percent of the Swedish voters, which is on par with the European average.Apart from the Pirate Party, which became the fifth biggest party in the elections in Sweden, the Greens were the big winners gaining 10.9 percent resulting in a fourth position and two seats in the parliament.

Link: http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-10259048-38.html?tag=nl.e703

Digital Britain. The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) is a British success story - and one that our government would dearly like to export overseas.

Although it would rather not pay for it, if it can possibly avoid doing so. That is the somewhat Johnny Bullish assessment of how we regulate the internet here in dear old Blighty, taken from the pages of Lord Carter's report on "Digital Britain" (pdf). It contains, as most such reports do, lavish praise for the gallant souls slaving away at the IWF - combined with little obvious understanding of the issues involved.

First the praise. According to Lord Carter's report, "the Internet Watch Foundation and the 'notice and take down' system on Internet sites is widely regarded internationally as a model." This is true as far as it goes - but possibly overlooks the fact that as one of the first such organisations into the fray, other jurisdictions have been in mad catch-up mode ever since.

However, there is a fly in the ointment: "The IWF's current income includes a contribution from the EU Safer Internet 66 Action Plan with the bulk being derived from voluntary membership subscriptions."This voluntary structure means that there is no certainty that the level of funding received now from the EU or from its membership will continue at this level in the future. In the current economic climate a voluntary funding base carries with it increased uncertainty over funding."So, perhaps the current model is not quite as brilliant as it is cracked up to be? Fear not: "the Government is challenging the industry to ensure that it has one". Challenging, that is, as in "if the regulation of criminal content is not adequately funded by industry, Government would need to consider statutory intervention".

So it's a good model - except when it comes to funding.

However, as the report is keen to repeat, "the IWF has also been a model for international hotlines for reporting child abuse material, especially across the EU. Some operators already use its list of illegal sites internationally. Since most child abuse material originates outside the EU, there is a case for its operations to cover at least the whole of the EU.

"We will therefore explore with the IWF and the European Commission the scope for a pan-European model with commensurate funding."There's the land grab: if government can obtain sufficient funding both from industry and the EU, our loveable, cuddly British IWF could soon be patrolling the murkier backwaters of the European internet too.This would be a step-change to the operation that the IWF currently runs, given both the number of countries involved and the subtle differences in law between states in terms of what is criminal to view.

It also overlooks a very large obstacle. The IWF is praised internationally for its work and its achievement in bringing down the proportion of child abuse sites hosted within the UK to 1% of the total accessed.That is a serious success story that is not without its critics. Issues that we have reported on previously include the lack of judicial involvement in the process: the failure to notify site owners, and overall, a typically British lack of legislative grounding for the operation. It is a fudge that has worked: and it has been considered a model for other countries because for some time it has been the main - if not the only - game in town.

Over the last year, this picture has been changing rapidly, with debates in several EU states, including Belgium, Germany and Denmark as to how the internet should be regulated. Debate has focused around issues of control and the level of government involvement in the

eventual solution. In Germany, a proposal for an IWF lookalike has been roundly rebuffed in favour of a model with greater judicial oversight.

So full marks to Lord Carter for delivering praise where praise is due: but "nuls points" for this blatant attempt to foist a British model on everyone else in Europe without first checking that it fits their own concerns.

Link: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/06/17/iwf_eu_land_grab/

COP THAT! Thanks Peekok!

It was smashing news this week for one anti-arms trade protester. Chris Bluemel, a music teacher from Southampton, was acquitted last Friday of assaulting Police - despite admitting to punching a cop in the face!

The case arose out events at last year's Carnival against the Arms Trade in Brighton (See SchNEWS 634) which saw a mass car-park invasion of EDO/ITT by protesters. Chris was charged with both Assaulting Police and Common Assault. His defence rested on the excessive force used by police in clearing the car-park and the beating he himself received. He showed the court photos of bruising on his arms and back – bizarrely taken on a Naked Bike Ride three days later (with the naughty bits covered by post-its!).

In their verdict three magistrates said that the evidence of PC Dugan, who received a punch in the face after beating Chris to the ground, had been 'vague and contradictory' in his description of the timing of events, while in contrast Chris was clearly a man of good character who had been 'credible and consistent' about what had happened.

Commenting on the policing of events, magistrates said that although the actions of police had been lawful at first, they descended into unlawful and excessive force in the last moments when protesters were being driven from the car park with batons and police dogs. There was no evidence of any violence used against the police by the protesters. In the circumstances Chris had been reasonable in fighting back against the police who were clearly 'not acting in the execution of their duty'.

Chris told SchNEWS "*This marks the end of an extremely difficult year, which began with a police raid on my house, in which a huge amount of computer equipment and campaign materials was seized, and ended with a trial on ludicrous charges. The police have so far refused to apologise for the disruption and stress they have caused to my life, including the fear of losing my job had I been convicted*."

Link: http://www.schnews.org.uk/archive/news6791.php

Thousands of bloggers who operate behind the cloak of anonymity have no right to keep their identities secret, the High Court ruled yesterday. Thanks Kevin!

In a landmark decision, Mr Justice Eady refused to grant an order to protect the anonymity of a police officer who is the author of the NightJack blog. The officer, Richard Horton, 45, a detective constable with Lancashire Constabulary, had sought an injunction to stop The Times from revealing his name. In April Mr Horton was awarded the Orwell Prize for political writing, but the judges were unaware that he was using information about cases, some involving sex offences against children, that could be traced back to genuine prosecutions. His blog, which gave a behind-the-scenes insight into frontline policing, included strong views on social and political issues.

The officer also criticised and ridiculed "a number of senior politicians" and advised members of the public under police investigation to "complain about every officer . . . show no respect to the legal system or anybody working in it". Some of the blog's best-read sections, which on occasion attracted half a million readers a week, were anecdotes about cases on which Mr Horton had worked. The people and places were made anonymous and details changed, but they could still be traced back to real prosecutions. In the first case dealing with the privacy of internet bloggers, the judge ruled that Mr Horton had no "reasonable expectation" to anonymity because "blogging is essentially a public rather than a private activity". The judge also said that even if the blogger could have claimed he had a right to anonymity, the judge would have ruled against him on public interest grounds.

The police officer, the judge said, had argued that he should not be exposed because it could put him at risk of disciplinary action for breaching regulations. But Mr Justice Eady criticised that argument as "unattractive to say the least". He added: "I do not accept that it is part of the court's function to protect police officers who are, or think they may be, acting in breach of police discipline regulations from coming to the attention of their superiors." He added: "It would seem to be quite legitimate for the public to be told who it was who was choosing to make, in some instances quite serious criticisms of police activities and, if it be the case, that frequent infringements of police discipline regulations were taking place." The action arose after Patrick Foster, a Times journalist, identified the NightJack blogger "by a process of deduction and detective work, mainly using information on the internet," the judge said.

Hugh Tomlinson, QC, for Mr Horton, had argued that "thousands of regular bloggers . . . would be horrified to think that the law would do nothing to protect their anonymity if someone carried out the necessary detective work and sought to unmask them". Mr Tomlinson said that Mr Horton wished to remain anonymous and had taken steps to preserve his anonymity. But Mr Justice Eady said that the mere fact that the blogger wanted to remain anonymous did not mean that he had a "reasonable expectation" of doing so or that The Times was under an enforceable obligation to him to maintain that anonymity. Antony White, QC, for The Times, argued that there was a public interest in non-compliance by a police officer with his obligations under the statutory code governing police behaviour and also with general public law duty on police officers not to reveal information obtained in the course of a police investigation other than for performing his public duties. Lancashire Constabulary said: "He has been spoken to regarding his professional behaviour and, in line with disciplinary procedures, has been issued with a written warning."

Link:
http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/the_web/article6509677.ece

Short news:

Human search engine/cyber vigilantes strike! Thanks Macavity!

"The Chinese credit the 'human flesh search engine' for successfully locating 'the kitten killer of Hangzhou' from clues in her online video. But in February, the same force identified a teenage cat-abuser in Oklahoma — within 24 hours of his video's appearance on YouTube. 'Netizens are the new Jack Bauer,' argues one science writer, and with three billion potential detectives, 'attempts to hide will only add thrill to the chase.' But China's vigilantes ultimately turned their attention to China's Internet Propaganda Office, bypassing censorship of a director's personal information using social networks, including Twitter. The author suggests there's a new principle emerging in the online world: 'The Internet does not forget, does not forgive and cannot be stopped. Ever.'"

Link: http://yro.slashdot.org/story/09/06/10/1614227/Online-Vigilantes-Or-Crowdsourced-Justice

Hoods, hats and cell phones banned in banks by local law Thanks Peekok!

"I know you're asking for trouble wearing a ski mask inside a bank. Now, my town [Ed: Westerville, OH] is prohibiting wearing hats, hoodies, sun glasses and also the use of cell phones inside banks. When will the insanity end?"
Westerville police have asked the city's 21 banks and credit unions to post window signs that direct customers to put away cell phones and remove sunglasses, hoods and hats.

The idea is to weed out those who want to conceal their identities from security cameras to rob the bank or credit union.

Link: http://www.boingboing.net/2009/05/18/town-bans-hoods-hats.html

Feedback:

From T.Hatt

Hi. In episode 63, I think, you mentioned audio players that become next-to-worthless after their audio jack becomes loose. This is often a very easy fix, simply the jack component getting detached from the circuit board due to mechanical strain. I think I'll make a video soon, explaining how to fix it.

And something about the 2012 thing. I've found an article recently that claims it's actually not December 21st, 2012, but October 28th, 2011. I'll spare the whys, but here's something good: if true, the article says, there will be another down-turn (like in "economic collapse", etc.) this year, on November 8th, and a yet another key point in February 2011. How about it - a major prophecy that is actually verifiable?

Here's the link (the first doesn't have pictures, but is quicker to load): (links in reccomedia)

Half Time Music

- Track 1 – **Whispers in Grey** by **Patient Zero** from the album **Schizophrenia**
- Track 2 – **Transformers** by **Victor Stellar** www.podsafeaudio.com
- Track 3 – **Whirlygirl** by **Lucy Knisley** www.lucyknisley.com

Discussion

(hopefully recorded at the r4nger5 meet)

Alternate discussion: Given that the world powers are getting really interested in the concept of cyber warfare – what turns do you think it will take? **– note:** If this discussion is not used it will be part of ep67

Links:

- www.rantmedia.ca
- www.stormthewire.tk
- www.wognetwork.com
- www.wogrant.com (new material coming soon, according to wuzzintme!)
- www.empowerthyself.com
- www.rostudios.org (we're still waiting for season 2)

www.r4nger5.com
www.r4nger5blog.tk
irc.freenode.net then #r4nger5

http://www.neighborhoodfruit.com/ Neghbourhood fruit – **thanks Peekok**

http://beta.technologyreview.com/energy/22867/ Home nuclear reactors**!** - **thanks Agent Pugsley!**

http://www.visionofhumanity.org/gpi/home.phpn Global Peace index - **Thanks Schneelocke!**

Schneelocke says; New Zealand came out in the first place this time (it used to be 4th last year); Denmark and Norway are tied for the second place (used to be 2nd and 3rd, respectively), while Iceland lost its #1 spot and ranks in the fourth place now. Rounding out the top 10 are Austria, Sweden, Japan, Canada and - tied for 9th place - Finland and Slovenia.

Germany came 16th (tied with Qatar; was 14th in 2008 and 12th in 2007), which still earns it a "Very High" rating with regard to its peacefulness; the UK is 35th ("High"; the UK is also the fourth
lowest-ranking nation in Western Europe, followed only by Italy, Cyprus and Greece, but it rose from 49th place it had in both 2008 and 2007), while the USA are 83rd ("Medium"; up from the 97th place in 2008 and 96th in 2007). At the bottom of the list, you'll find such countries as Sudan, Israel, Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq (in that order).

The full report can be downloaded from the website and is very much worth reading. In addition, the website has the rather nifty functionality of allowing you to compare the detailed score breakdowns (as well as demographic data) of up to five countries at once; for example, the following link will take you to the comparison page for Iceland, Germany, the UK and the USA:

http://www.visionofhumanity.org/gpi/results/comparison/2009/de-is-gb-us/

The media pack on the website also contains further interesting documents, including maps, bibliographies, a fact sheet and a discussion paper. That last one, like the report itself, is quite worth reading, and expounds on why peace is not just good for its own sake but in fact a catalyst for further positive changes in a society. Iceland is used as an example there due to the economic disaster that struck there in 2008, the so-called kreppa

Reccomedia

http://jlnavarro.blogspot.com/2009/05/october-28-2011.html
http://www.scribd.com/doc/16126076/The-risks-of-believing-that-the-Mayan-calendar-ends-December-21-2012
T'Hatt's 2012 links

https://isohunt.com/torrent_details/44703957/henry+thoreau?tab=summary

https://isohunt.com/torrent_details/94445817/henry+thoreau?tab=summary Henry Thoreau Books – **Thanks Kevin!**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c1T2oKEffQ Japanese HD moon flyover video – **thanks Agent Pugsley!**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvDWleKmhYs PSP augmented reality game - **thanks Agent Pugsley!**

http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20227117.000 Inflatable space tower - **thanks Agent Pugsley!**

http://paranormalpodcast.com/ - what does it say on the tin!?!?!?

Outro Music

- Track 1 – **Antichristo** by **Patient Zero** from the album **Schizophrenia**
- Track 2 – **Not your enemy** by **Megaphone** from www.podsafeaudio.com
- Track 3 – **Shame me Down** by **Lucy Knisley** www.lucyknisley.com
- Rant – **Sean Kennedy - reject**